



July 28, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or transfer control of licenses and authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

When the now world-renowned television show American Idol first premiered in 2002, few Americans realized that it would become a cultural phenomenon. Here at the Garner Chamber of Commerce like everywhere else in the country, we enjoy discussing the singing performances and amusing rapport between the judges. One thing that makes American Idol special is the ability for viewers to get involved in the voting by calling in or text messaging their votes. In many ways, the show has revolutionized viewer interaction.

The success of the show extends beyond the producers to afford great opportunities to the winning contestants. Local resident Scotty McCreery catapulted himself to national fame after he won the 10th season of American Idol. This popular show and other television programs like it are great examples of how technology can open doors and create opportunities. For us, it was Scotty and his beautiful voice that placed Garner, NC on the national map. Elsewhere, it could be a small business finding new customers, a local charity that gains national success, schools which gain access to more resources, and more. These successes would not be possible without high-speed mobile broadband.

To ensure the bright futures of citizens and businesses all across America, we would like to see the passage of the merger application from AT&T and T-Mobile. This merger would extend high-speed mobile broadband service to over 97 percent of the country. There are currently millions of Americans who lack access to the service. We find this unacceptable, and hope you do too.

Please do everything in your power to pass this merger as it has the possibility to bring so many benefits to Americans in rural areas.

Sincerely,

Jay Strickland
Board Chair

CC:
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell